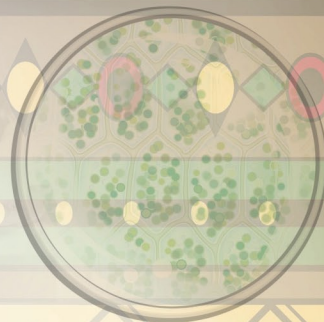
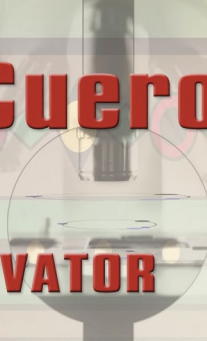




Dr. Raul Cuero

(1948 –)

COLUMBIA BIOGENESIS INNOVATOR



Growing up in an impoverished neighborhood in Buenaventura, Columbia, Raul Cuero had few toys or books. So instead, he became fascinated with two things: creepy crawlers - especially lizards and bugs - and basketball. And those boyhood interests led him to the highest levels of science and sports.

In the late-1960s, Cuero became one of Colombia's best basketball players, serving as captain of its National Team. After that he pursued a career in Science and has become an internationally-recognized inventor in the area of Microbiology and Biogenesis.

Dr. Cuero obtained a degree in Biology from Universidad del Valle in Colombia, then earned an academic scholarship to continue his education in the United States, where he obtained a Master's Degree in Plant Pathology from Ohio State University. Dr. Cuero then went to Scotland to earn a PhD in Microbiology.

Dr. Cuero has advised a wide range of government and nonprofit organizations, including NASA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, State of Ohio, Organization of American States, and more. He was among the first scientists to sound the alarm about climate change as early as 1989.

He has earned many awards, including the Indianapolis "Key to the City" and NASA's Tech Brief Award. One of Dr. Cuero's innovations is his creation of a natural blocker against ultraviolet radiation for use in space travel and to combat skin cancer. He has 26 approved and pending patents, most recently for a type of glass with antifungal properties.

This year, Dr. Cuero was named "Hispanic Scientist of the Year" by the Tampa Museum of Science and Industry. He now serves as President and Research Director for the International Park of Creativity, where he provides consulting services on science and biotechnology.

"I'd rather not be an example of how poverty yields triumph, but rather an example of how challenges present opportunities," Dr. Cuero has said.



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Photographer Bamdad Espahbod, The City Paper, May 2013



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